

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A central control system that controls multiple air conditioners including at least one outdoor device and a plurality of indoor devices, comprising:

a central controller connected to the multiple air conditioners through a dedicated line, for transmitting and receiving signals using an air conditioner communication protocol, to control the multiple air conditioners, the central controller being configured to connect to a remote controller via an Internet network for transmitting and receiving signals using an Ethernet communication protocol and to receive a control command from the remote controller for the multiple air conditioners; and

a protocol converter, physically separate from and locally ~~connected to~~ attached through a cable with the central controller, that performs a communication protocol conversion of a signal~~[[,]]~~ whereby when the control command is transmitted to the multiple air conditioners through the Internet network, wherein the central controller transmits signals to and receives signals from the protocol converter using the Ethernet communication protocol, and the protocol converter converts signals between the Ethernet communication protocol and the air conditioner communication protocol,

wherein the central controller comprises a signal storage device that stores the control command received through the Internet network, an Internet

data storage device that stores data for accessing the Internet network and IP address data, and a controller that controls a flow of signals transmitted and received through the Internet network, and controls the protocol converter to perform a communication protocol conversion of a signal.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The central control system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the central controller comprises:

a control program driver that drives a control program accessible by a GUI (Graphic User Interface) for controlling the multiple air conditioners.

4. (Previously Presented) The central control system as set forth in claim 3, wherein the central controller comprises:

a control program transmitter that transmits the control program to the remote controller through an Internet browser in response to a request from the remote controller received through the Internet network.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a central control system for multiple air conditioners, comprising:

receiving, by a central controller, a control command for the multiple air conditioners that is transmitted from a remote controller over an Internet

network;

transmitting, by the central controller, the received control command based on an Ethernet communication protocol to a protocol converter, physically separate from and locally ~~connected to~~ attached through a cable with the central controller, ~~using an Ethernet communication protocol~~;

converting, by the protocol converter, the received control command into a control command based on an air conditioner communication protocol;

transmitting the control command based on the air conditioner communication protocol to the multiple air conditioners;

performing a control operation of the multiple air conditioners in response to the control command based on the air conditioner communication protocol;

converting, by the protocol converter, control condition data of the multiple air conditioners into control condition data based on an Ethernet communication protocol; and

transmitting, by the protocol converter, data representing control conditions of the multiple air conditioners to the remote controller over the Internet network.

8-15. (Cancelled)